

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ROME

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF INITIATIVE TO FORM WESTERN

GROUP FOR DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL ISSUES

AT UNESCO

REF: (A) PARIS 6441, (B) STATE 55936

1. EC-9 MET TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN GROUP TO DISCUSS ON AD HOC BASIS POLITICAL AND OTHER ISSUES AT UNESCO WHICH HAVE BEEN OUTSIDE COMPETENCE OF GENEVA GROUP AND FOR WHICH NO MECHANISM EXISTS FOR ORGANIZED EXCHANGES OF VIEWS. ACCORDING TO FRG, ITALIANS, AND BELGIANS, NINE AGREED THAT SUCH A GROUP WAS NEEDED AND ONLY QUESTION, HOW TO STRUCTURE IT TO PLEASE ALL MEMBERS OF NINE. FRANCE, AS EXPECTED, TOOK MOST NEGATIVE VIEW, BUT REPORTEDLY AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH

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FORMATION OF A GROUP SO LONG AS IT WAS NOT FORMALIZED

AND STRUCTURED. EXACTLY WHAT THIS MEANS IS NOT YET DEFINITE, BUT IT DOES SEEM TO INDICATE A BASIS FOR ENTERING INTO MORE STRUCTURED NEGOTIATIONS.

2. IN THAT REGARD, PERMREP HAS TALKED WITH AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR OSWIND AND WITH THE FRG, BELGIUMS, ITALIANS, BRITISH AND CANADIANS. IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT NO ONE WILL OPENLY TAKE ANY INITIATIVE, BUT THAT A SMALL MEETING SHOULD NOW BE HELD TO INFORMALLY WORK OUT DETAILS FOR SOME FORM OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS. THE NINE HAVE AGREED THAT BELGIUM (VAN USSEL) AND ITALY (CARDUCCI) CAN ATTEND SUCH A MEETING. IN ADDITION, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, SWITZERLAND AND PERHAPS SWEDEN WILL LIKELY ATTEND, ALONG WITH PERMREP FOR THE US. THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE AGREED TO MAKE THEIR OFFICE AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH NO DATE HAS BEEN SET. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE GATHERING WILL TAKE PLACE SOMETIME NEXT WEEK.

3. THEREFORE, EVERYONE SEEMS TO AGREE THAT SOME FORM OF MORE FORMAL MECHANISM IS NEEDED TO DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE ON THE HORIZON. THE NINE WOULD PREFER A SORT OF "NON-GROUP", THAT IS, NO FORMAL LIST OF MEMBERS, BUT A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT LIKE-MINDED WESTERN STATES WOULD BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. THUS, THE NINE COULD SEND A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE OR COME IN BANK. JAPAN WOULD PROBABLY BE INVITED AND OTHER STATES COULD PARTICIPATE AS THE OCCASION MIGHT DEMAND, I.E. SPAIN, GREECE OR PORTUGAL. WHO WOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN CALLING A MEETING IS NOT YET SETTLED, BUT PROBABLY ANYONE COULD DO SO AT ANY TIME. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT SWITZERLAND SERVE AS THE INFORMAL COORDINATOR TO GET PEOPLE TOGETHER WHEN NEEDED. THIS IS AS YET ONLY A SUGGESTION AND THE SWISS HAVE NOT YET CONCURRED.

4. AT ANY RATE, THINGS ARE STILL IN THE EXPLORATORY STAGES' BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE GENERAL CONCURRENCE THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO GET SOMETHING GOING. PERMREP WOULD PROPOSE TO CONTINUE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PLANNING

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AND PROVIDE GENTLE ENCOURAGEMENT WHERE IT IS APPROPRIATE. RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE PERMREPS INVOLVED IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO PERMIT CANDOR AND COOPERATION WITHOUT GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF ANYONE TAKING TOO GREAT A LEADERSHIP ROLE.

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